

In the Claims:

Kindly rewrite the claims to read as follows:

1. *(Currently Amended)* Lock mechanism for a dispenser in combination with an exchangeable roll of material, the roll being provided with at least one end plug with a bearing pin for mounting the roll to the lock mechanism of the dispenser, comprising:
 - a lock housing with a guide slot for insertion of the bearing pin, the guide slot having a first section with a first width and a second section with a second width which is smaller than the first width, the first section and second section being arranged in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal extension of the guide slot and in a longitudinal direction of the bearing pin to be received;
 - a sliding element mounted to the lock housing and movable between a first position closing or narrowing the guide slot and a second position opening the guide slot;
 - a lock element mounted to the sliding element and rotationally movable around an axis of rotation between a locked position and an unlocked position;
 - the lock element being provided with an engagement portion which, in the locked position, is engaged with a locking ~~geometry~~ means of the lock housing.
2. *(Previously presented)* Lock mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the lock element has an abutment portion which, in the locked position, protrudes into the first section of the guide slot.
3. *(Currently Amended)* Lock mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the engagement portion of the lock element is hook-shaped and, in the locked position, provides a form fit engagement with the locking ~~geometry~~ means of the lock housing.
4. *(Previously presented)* Lock mechanism according to claim 1, further comprising an elastic element biasing the lock element into the locked position.

5. *(Previously presented)* Lock mechanism according to claim 4, wherein the elastic element comprises a leaf spring exerting a biasing force on the lock element at a distance from the axis of rotation of the lock element.
6. *(Previously presented)* Lock mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the sliding element is provided with a beveled camming surface which, in the first position of the sliding element, protrudes into the guide slot.
7. *(Previously presented)* Lock mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the sliding element, in the first position, narrows the first section of the guide slot.
8. *(Currently Amended)* Lock mechanism according to claim 6, wherein a mutual position of the abutment portion of the lock element and the beveled camming surface of the sliding element are such that, upon insertion of the bearing pin, first the bearing pin exerts a force on the abutment portion and articulates the lock element out of engagement with the locking ~~geometry~~ means of the lock housing; and then the bearing pin engages the camming surface of the sliding element.
9. *(Previously presented)* Lock mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the guide slot is straight.
10. *(Previously presented)* Lock mechanism according to claim 1, wherein guide slot is curved.
11. *(Previously presented)* Lock mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the first width and the second width of the guide slot are constant over the longitudinal extension of the guide slot when the sliding element is in the second position.
12. *(Currently Amended)* End plug for a roll of material ~~to be inserted into a lock mechanism according to claim 1~~, comprising:
- a receiving portion with dimensions to fit into a hollow core of the roll of material;

- an abutment flange for abutment against the hollow core of the roll of material; and
 - a bearing portion including ~~the~~a bearing pin with a first end adjacent the abutment flange, and a second end remote from the abutment flange; wherein
 - the bearing pin has a first diameter portion closer to the second end of the bearing pin, a second diameter portion further remote from the second end, and a third diameter portion between the abutment flange and the second diameter portion, the second diameter portion having a smaller diameter than the first diameter portion and the third diameter portion.
13. *(Previously presented)* End plug according to claim 12, wherein the first and second diameter portions are contiguous with each other.
14. *(Previously presented)* End plug according to claim 12, wherein the first diameter portion has an outer diameter of at least 5mm and the second diameter portion has an outer diameter of 3.5 mm or less and an axial length exceeding 1 mm.
15. *(Previously presented)* End plug according to claim 12, further comprising a plurality of radially extending ribs on an outer circumference of the receiving portion.
16. *(Currently Amended)* End plug according to claim 12, ~~further comprising wherein the abutment flange comprises~~ a flange-shaped stop member around the receiving portion to limit the depth of insertion of the receiving portion into the hollow core of the roll of material.
17. *(Previously presented)* End plug according to claim 12, wherein the end plug is integrally extruded from plastics material.
18. *(Previously presented)* Use of an end plug according to claim 12 for fitting into the hollow core of a roll of material.

19. *(Currently Amended)* Roll of material ~~for use in the lock mechanism and being~~ provided, at least at one longitudinal end of the roll, with an end plug according to claim 12.

20. *(Currently Amended)* ~~Dispenser for exchangeable paper rolls, comprising~~The lock mechanism according to claim 1, in combination with:

[[-]] a housing; and

[[-]] a holder having laterally extending receiving means for mounting ~~[[a]]the lock mechanism according to claim 1.~~

21. *(Currently Amended)* Method for inserting an exchangeable roll of material with at least one end plug ~~according to~~into the lock mechanism of claim 1, the end plug including a bearing pin having a distal first diameter portion of greater diameter than a less distal second diameter portion, comprising the steps of:

- (i) placing the roll of material into the lock mechanism such that the first diameter portion of the bearing pin enters the first section of the guide slot and the second diameter portion of the bearing pin enters the second section of the guide slot;
- (ii) shifting the bearing pin of the end plug within the guide slot such that the first diameter portion comes into engagement with the lock element;
- (iii) further shifting the bearing pin of the end plug within the guide slot and effecting an articulation of the lock element around its axis of rotation from the locked position to the unlocked position in which the lock element is out of engagement with the locking ~~geometry means~~ of the lock housing;
- (iv) further shifting the bearing pin of the end plug within the guide slot such that the bearing pin comes into engagement with the sliding element;

- (v) further shifting the bearing pin of the end plug within the guide slot such that the sliding element is shifted from the first position to the second position; and
 - (vi) further shifting the bearing pin of the end plug within the guide slot until the bearing pin reaches an operation position.
22. *(Previously presented)* Method according to claim 21, wherein, in steps (iii) and (v), the shifting of the bearing pin is effected with a force sufficient to overcome a biasing force of an elastic element.
23. *(Previously presented)* Method according to claim 21, wherein, in step (iv) the second diameter portion of the bearing pin comes into engagement with the sliding element.
24. *(Previously presented)* The method according to claim 21, wherein the operation position is at a bottom of the guide slot.
25. *(Currently amended)* The ~~dispenser roll~~ of claim ~~20~~19, wherein the ~~paper roll~~[[s]] comprises tissue paper roll[[s]].
26. *(Previously presented)* The use of an end plug according to claim 18, wherein the roll of material comprises a paper towel roll or a tissue paper roll wound around the hollow core.
27. *(Previously presented)* The end plug of claim 17, wherein the plastics material comprises polypropylene or polyethylene.